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BURG SCHLAINING DECLARATION, 1996

Guided by the terms of reference of the meeting as contained in paragraph 3 of the communique issued at the conclusion of the fifth round of Ministerial talks in Geneva on 9 January 1995, the *All-Inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue* on March 19 - 22, 1996, herewith 1996 AIETD in Burg Schlaining, Austria,

Expressing their gratitude to the Secretary General and his staff for facilitating this *All-Inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue* in Burg Schlaining,

Expressing their appreciation and thanking the generous hospitality of the Austrian Federal Government in welcoming the participants for the second time,

Taking into consideration the Note to the Burg Schlaining Declaration of June 5, 1995 as contained in the Note of 6 June 1995 submitted by the participants from inside East Timor,

Recognizing the efforts of various East Timorese personalities who made possible the realization of 1995 AIETD,

Deeply concious of the invaluable role of the Catholic Church in East Timor and commending its positive cooperation with other religions,

Taking note of all contributions by the participants of this meeting,

Bearing in mind the positive atmosphere that prevailed during the course of the 1996 AIETD,

THE PARTICIPANTS,

1. *Emphasize* the importance of the presence of Mgr. Jose Antonio da Costa, Vicar-General of the Diocese of Dili, as personal representative of Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, SDB, Apostolic Administrator of Dili;

2. *Again affirm* the importance of the ongoing negotiations between the governments of Indonesia and Portugal under the auspices of the UN Secretary General with a view to finding a just, comprehensive, and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor;

3. *Express* their interest and readiness in continuing the AIETD, should it be requested by the UN Secretary General in the same framework in which this one was undertaken with a view to continuing the debate on the concrete and practical issues conducive to the confidence building measures aiming at helping the resolution of the question of East Timor;

4. *Express* their interest to the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal in the establishment of an East Timorese Cultural Center in Dili with the aim of undertaking research on the culture, such as language (including Tetum and Portuguese), customs and traditions of the East Timorese;

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5. *Welcome* assistance from Portugal to help East Timor's human resources development by concrete measures, such as financial and technical support for East Timor University and practical training for youth in all areas of relevance to the needs of East Timorese people;

6. *Encouraged* by the substantial role of the East Timorese in the administration and development of East Timor, propose to the Indonesian government the provision of further opportunities for East Timorese to have a greater role in the administration of the territory as well as economic policy, trade and investment activities. The promotion of local small industries, such as handicraft and textile should deserve special attention;

7. *Reaffirm* the need to implement the necessary measures in the field of human rights in the various areas, including the protection of women with a view to promoting peace, stability, justice and social harmony;

Burg Schlaining, March 22, 1996

Signatures;